Circle		Amount (Rs. in Crores)
11. MP	—	0.0023
12. Maharashtra	—	Nil
13. North East	—	Nil
14. Orissa	—	0.0212
15. Punjab	—	0.2000
16. Rajasthan	—	Nil
17. Tamil Nadu	—	0.0045
18. U.P.	—	108.3100
19. West	—	151.7000
GRAND TOTAL	—	487.0800 Crores.

Faulty Telephone Cables in Haryana

†109. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target to provide telephone facility in every village of the country;

(b) if so, by when the said target is likely to be achieved; and

(c) by when the faulty cables especially in Haryana will be repaired/changed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The present plans are to provide telecom facility in every revenue village in the country progressively by March, 2002.

(c) Whenever cable faults occur, prompt action is taken to repair the faulty cables. Only life expired/unserviceable cables are replaced by new cables.

Late Deliveries of Mail

110. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 48 to 78 percent mails was being delivered late as per the standards of the Department of Posts itself;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the position in rural and urban areas separately in this regard; and

(d) what measures Government proposes to take to reduce this delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Mails are generally delivered as per norms. However, there may be occasional instances of delay to mails due to various reasons that are beyond the control of the Department like late running/ cancellation of mail carrying planes, trains and buses, sudden and unexpected increase in the volume of mails, natural calamities etc.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The All India position is as follows (1998-99):

Percentage of mails delivered within norms:

(i) Urban	74.8%
(ii) Rural	69.5%

(d) The Department makes continuous and vigorous efforts to eliminate any delay in delivery of mails. A number of steps are being taken in this regard.

The following are some of the steps taken:

(1) Close monitoring of the collection, transmission, processing and delivery of mails both at the field and Directorate levels;

(2) Automated sorting of machineable mails in Mumbai and Chennai on Letter Sorting Machines to expedite sorting;

(3) Installation of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) stations and Extended Stations at Post Offices to speed up transmission of Money Orders to all areas including remote, Hilly and backward areas.

(4) Introduction of mail processing by prioritised and segmented handling of mails in various channels according to their time sensitivity. These channels are Green (Local) Channel, Metro

Channel, Rajdhani Channel, Business Channel, Bulk Mail Channel and Periodicals (Patrika) Channel.

(5) Modernisation and computerisation of the mail transmission, processing and delivery.

STD Facilities in Almora Distt. (Uttar Pradesh)

111. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of places in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh where STD facility is available alongwith the STD codes thereof;

(b) the names of the places where STD facility is likely to be provided in the next three years and the steps being taken for the development of STD network in Almora district; and

(c) by when Basot and Bhatraunjkhan in Almora district will be connected by STD.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The names of places in Almora district where STD facility is available alongwith their S.T.D. codes are given in the enclosed statement—I (*See* below).

(b) The names of the places where STD facility is likely to be provided in the next three years in Almora District are given in the enclosed Statement—II *(See* below).

For the development of STD network in Almora district cable laying work is going in full swing in the whole region and MCPC-VSAT and UHF are likely to be provided wherever feasible.

(c) S.T.D. facility to Bhatraunjkhan is planned on MCPC-VSAT and is likely to be provided by March, 2000. At present there is no exchange existing at Basot as there is no registered demand for provision of telephone connections. The exchange with STD facility will be planned as and when, there is adequate registered demand for provision of telephone exchange.

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